

Oral Questions

also that there was not a sufficient number of jobs available, hence the double thrust of the policy, namely, to help unemployed people, particularly the young, to achieve the skills to fill the jobs that are already there, and that in the interim we have to go down another road, and that is one of direct job creation in areas of the country where there is high unemployment and where community projects should be carried out so that we can move in these particular areas to help.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PIPELINE FROM MELVILLE AND KING CHRISTIAN ISLANDS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

As the federal government is the main shareholder in Panarctic Oil Company, can the minister tell the House whether the study on the right of way for the construction of a gas pipeline from the wells located on Melville and King Christian islands in the Arctic to eastern Canada has been completed, and whether he intends to present a report on the activities of that company with regard to natural gas?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the work has not yet been completed. It is still underway. There is a great deal of work to be done both in respect of the main trunk line and the gathering system from the wells which connect them with the main trunk line.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

I should like to ask the minister, since to my knowledge there are two proposed alternate routes, one west of James Bay or the Hudson Bay and the other east of the Hudson Bay, which would be in the province of Quebec, whether he has received representations from the Quebec government requesting, since this pipeline would serve eastern Canada primarily, that it be built on the Quebec side?

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to make inquiries and to convey the information to the hon. member.

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PUBLIC WORKS

LES TERRASSES DE LA CHAUDIÈRE—REQUEST FOR TBLING OF REPORT

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Public Works I will direct my question to the acting Minister of Public Works. On Tuesday, October 19 the Minister of Public Works told us he was

[Mr. Cullen.]

receiving a report from his officials on the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière project, and I am wondering if he could table that report or make a statement on it at this time?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I shall convey to my hon. colleague the question put by the hon member which I am sure he will take under advisement. As the hon. member knows, that type of report is subject to certain restrictions. Still, if those restrictions do not apply, the report will probably be tabled in the House.

[English]

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, I thank the acting minister for the reply. I am wondering whether in speaking to the minister he will advise him that 16 days have passed since the Minister of Public Works called for a report and does the minister not agree that the taxpayers of Canada are entitled to a full and open inquiry on this contract, as well as the negotiations and circumstances leading to the contract?

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, I shall bring the remarks of the hon. member to the attention of my colleague.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INCARCERATION OF SHARON BETHUNE IN MEXICAN JAIL—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ACTION TO OBTAIN RELEASE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question which was put to him by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta and in respect of which I moved a motion today under Standing Order 43. What steps are being taken by the minister and his department in reference to the long incarceration of Sharon Lynn Bethune who is being held in deplorable conditions not fit for a human being in a Mexican jail and who is being held there even though her father has put up \$18,000, more or less, in order to have her released, but has been unable to obtain her release at this stage.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will give the hon. member as much information as I possibly can on this question bearing in mind, as I think he will realize, that perhaps too much public discussion of this matter may not be useful at the present time.

The situation is that we were advised by the young lady's lawyer in the early part of this week that she would be released in a couple of days. The lawyer subsequently has advised our embassy that in fact he was misinformed and that the judge decided to wait until early next week in order to consider the matter. The most recent assurance we have had is that the case will be considered next week and, presumably, if it is disposed of and results in Miss Bethune's release she will be free to